

MISSION PLAN 2014 - 2016

OUR VISION

Sharing the love and welcome of Jesus Christ

OUR MISSION

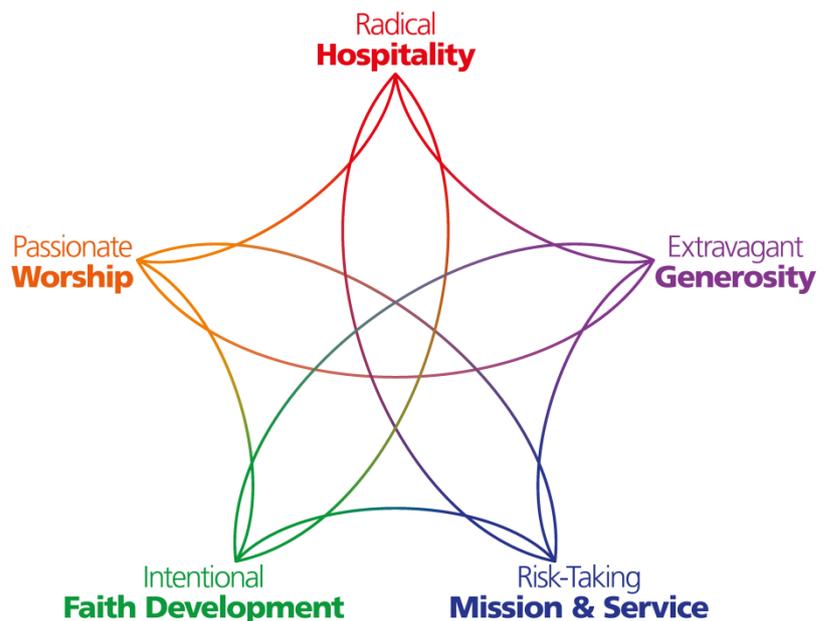
To be a community of all ages knowing God through Jesus Christ and, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to:

- practise **radical hospitality**, sharing the open and inclusive welcome and care of Jesus,
- join together in **passionate worship** of God through music and song, scripture, preaching, prayer, and the sacraments,
- **intentionally develop faith** to nourish and empower our people in their journey of discipleship,
- undertake **risk-taking mission and service** with the compassion, mercy and justice of Jesus to improve the lives of people in the community and all creation, and
- be **extravagant in generosity**, reflecting the overflowing grace of God, to make a positive difference in the world.

Mission Strategies

Our mission planning has been influenced by the book *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* by Robert Schnase and our mission strategies have been framed in each of the five practices discussed in the book. In the detail of the plan we have included a Bible verse and quotations from the relevant chapter of the book at the beginning of each of the practice areas. We note the mission strategies that describe how we intend to put these ideas into action. Some of these affirm activities and directions that are already underway. Others (marked in *red italics*) are new initiatives under this plan.

We believe that these five practices are interdependent and, for a congregation to fruitfully grow, there is a need to focus on the integrated application of each, as demonstrated in the diagram on the right. We ask all leaders and mission teams to consider how to apply these principles in their areas of ministry within the Congregation.



RADICAL HOSPITALITY

*Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.
(Romans 15:7)*

Christian hospitality refers to the active desire to invite, welcome, receive, and care for those who are strangers so that they find a spiritual home and discover for themselves the unending richness of life in Christ.

Radical Hospitality means that the church is not just another social club but the body of Christ constantly seeking to fulfil the mission of Christ.

Strategies

- 1. Make Christian invitation and welcome a vital part of the culture of the church, and an expectation of every member and ministry team.*
2. Build links to those beyond the congregation with social events such as: Saturday Night Live, Ladies Nights, Men's State of Origin Nights, Sports Nights, eSoc, etc.
3. Provide Crèche at both the morning and afternoon services.
- 4. Encourage all church programs to intentionally consider opportunities to welcome members of our multicultural community.*
5. Promote church activities effectively, including:
 - Ensuring our website is up to date and engaging
 - *Social media*
6. Ensure that members of our congregation of all ages and situations, experience support and a sense of belonging through pastoral care that is intentional, accountable and confidential. Our Minister, Ministry Team, Pastoral Care Team and Elders will cover the congregation with a network of care.
7. Take communion to those not able to get to the church.

PASSIONATE WORSHIP

*How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!
My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.
(Psalm 84:1-2)*

Passionate worship connects people to God and to one another. People gather consciously as the Body of Christ with eagerness and expectancy; encountering Christ through singing, prayer, Scripture, preaching and Holy Communion; and respond by allowing God's Spirit to shape their lives. Lives shaped by God's Spirit become the nucleus for congregations with extraordinary warmth, graciousness and belonging.

In worship we encounter a fresh vision of God's reality in Christ so that God's Spirit can reshape our lives and form us into the Body of Christ.

Strategies

- 1. Sunday Morning Service:** This service celebrates the rich heritage of Christian liturgical worship (including both traditional hymns and more modern hymns and songs).
 - Continue to develop the character of the morning service encouraging lay participation and excellence in choral and instrumental music and promoting to those in the wider community who prefer this style of worship.
 - Encourage the continuing provision of CDs and podcast of the service (available from the member section of the website).
 - *Review the potential to provide a program for children as part of this service.*
- 2. Sunday Worship @ 5 Service:** This service has been successfully established over the last 18 months providing a Contemporary Family Worship experience.
 - Continue to develop a liturgy that is attractive to families, which is inviting and connects with the wider community. Lay participation strongly supports this service and we intend to build up the music band and depth of singing talent, by intentionally encouraging people with musical talent.
 - Families appreciate the links between this service and Kids Church for children, and Switch for youth.
- 3. Review by mid-2014 how effectively our morning and afternoon services are meeting the needs of our congregation and mission.*
- 4. Sunday Evening Service for Young Adults and Youth: Establish an evening service appealing to Young Adults and Youth. The working group to establish this service will need to work with the Minister and Youth and Young Adult Ministry Worker, to address issues including, leadership, style of worship and music, timing and frequency.*
- 5. Friday Night Spark Worship:** Encourage the leadership team of Spark to continue providing a significant worship component in the Spark outreach program that engages the youth in worshipping our Lord Jesus.
- 6. Monthly Midweek Communion Service:** Continue to offer a midweek communion service followed by a light lunch. This is the primary service of worship for some of our congregation who find it difficult to attend our other regular services.
- 7. Monthly Sunday 7 pm Healing and Wholeness Service:** Provide opportunities for members to bring concerns for themselves or others, who have physical, mental or emotional concerns, seeking the healing offered through the power of the Spirit.
 - *Conduct a review to determine if this is the best time to hold this service*
- 8. Special Community Services:** Offer a mix of special pastoral/ outreach services offered that connect with seasons and events in the community.
- 9. Encouraging Personal Devotions:** In addition to joining together in a community of worship, we encourage regular personal devotions. There are a large number of resources available to support personal devotions including *With Love to the World*, developed by the Uniting Church.
- 10. To investigate the feasibility of setting up the David and Lorraine Lusby Memorial Organ Scholarship.*

INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.
(Acts 2:42)*

Intentional faith development offers high quality learning experiences that help people understand Scripture, faith, and life in the supportive nurture of caring relationships.

We learn the life of Christ and will of God by studying God's Word and through experience with other people of faith.

Strategies

1. Encourage members of the Congregation to participate in and benefit from discipling small groups.
2. Provide teaching to children through such things as: Kids Church on Sundays and through scripture classes at Roseville and Castle Cove Primary schools, and Godly Play workshops.
3. Provide teaching and support for youth in such ways as
 - through our outreach program Spark on Fridays
 - through our discipling program Switch for youth on Sunday evenings, and
 - by our support of REACH, the interdenominational scripture ministry at Chatswood High School and Willoughby Girls High School
4. Provide teaching to young adults in such ways as being part of a Life Group meeting and offering individual mentoring and spiritual guidance.
5. Offer Christian Meditation for those who find this helps them to deepen their spiritual life.
6. Ensure our Resource Centre provides a wide range of materials that support personal faith development that can be borrowed by both our members and by others who visit our facilities.
7. Provide special faith development events throughout the year, such as workshops led by visiting Christian scholars.
8. As part of the wider Uniting Church and ecumenical church and in the spirit of fellowship and sharing of resources, actively participate in combined workshops, worship services and other events with Ku-ring-gai South Network, Killara-Lindfield-Roseville Interchurch Fellowship, U-Night Youth, etc.
9. Encourage an annual Weekend Away Camp that provides opportunities for great fun and deep spiritual growth.
10. *Encourage more members to gather together monthly, either physically or in other ways, and be involved in a prayer ministry within our congregation.*
11. *Help members of the congregation develop the skills and confidence to share their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour and the difference Jesus makes in their lives.*

RISK-TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE

And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'

(Matthew 25:40)

Mission refers to the positive difference made in the lives of people beyond the inner circle of the church. Mission spreads the faith by exemplifying the compassion, mercy, and justice of Christ in the world.

Risk-taking Mission and Service remind us that congregations are not ends in themselves; they are resources God uses to change lives and transform the world.

Strategies

1. Provide support for the Roseville *Ready Steady Go* Newpin program in western Sydney that has had a strong impact on the lives of the children who graduate from the program, and their parents.
2. Offer a significant ministry to the senior members of our community who feel isolated or are looking for friendship and stimulating life-long learning through activities such as Friday College, Community Lunch, and First Tuesday Coffee Club.
3. Continue to support our very successful Kids Playtime program.
 - *Develop new pathways for families involved in Kids Playtime to connect with other activities of the church.*
 - *Fill the part-time Family and Children's Ministry Worker position so that this Kids Playtime ministry can continue when the funding for our Community Ministry Worker ends in June 2014.*
4. Encourage the Asylum Seeker and Refugee Support Group which is supporting asylum seekers and refugees in our community through advocacy, education, fundraising and practical acts of help.
5. *Reflecting on the number of households with children in Roseville, review the potential to launch an outreach to upper primary aged children.*
6. Continue to support the Spark outreach program to youth on Friday nights.
7. *Review the potential to have:*
 - *an annual camp for youth*
 - *a mission trip/service outreach for Young Adults and Youth (e.g. with Uniting World)*
8. Continue our school's ministry to local primary schools, such as Roseville and Castle Cove Primary Schools and, through our support of REACH, to Chatswood High School and Willoughby Girls High School.
9. *Encourage congregation members to share their Christian faith.*
10. *Investigate a mission event to the community.*

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us (2 Corinthians 9:11)

Generosity enlarges the soul, realigns priorities, connects people to the Body of Christ, and strengthens congregations to fulfil Christ's ministries. Giving reflects the nature of God. Growing in the grace of giving is part of the Christian journey of faith, a response Christian disciple's offer to God's call to make a difference in the world.

The key to effective and spiritually strengthening stewardship campaigns are the same in all churches, large and small: an unapologetic but gracious emphasis on proportional giving and tithing, an emphasis on giving in the giver's walk of faith, an emphasis on the connection of money to a compelling and clear sense of mission

Churches that grow in giving know that generosity increases with participation in ministry and community, and so they work to deepen the core ministries of worship, small group learning, and mission.

Strategies

- 1. Review the structure of the Mission Teams to provide opportunities for all members of the congregation to identify and employ their God-given gifts*
- 2. In 2014 review how leaders are developed through our discipling small groups and other discipleship activities.*
- 3. Continue to offer practical community service locally and beyond our community by supporting such programs as the Christmas Bowl, Lent Event, Frontier Services and support for other Uniting Church Agencies.**
- 4. Being thankful for the blessings that God has already provided to our Congregation, hold a stewardship program in the first half of 2014 to ensure that our income keeps pace with the cost of maintaining our ministry objectives and our property. This program is needed to:*
 - Ensure we can cover current mission programs, which are running on a very fine margin.*
 - Expand the hours of the Children's Ministry Worker from 19 hours to 25 hours a week. This will enable Kids Playtime to continue after SMRF funds for our Community Ministry Worker position end in June 2014.*
 - Add a part time paid Pastoral Care worker for 7 hours a week to support the Minister in providing pastoral care for our congregation.*

CONCLUSION

We acknowledge that planning activities, while important, are not the key to accomplishing God's purpose for our community. Rather it is the Spirit of God at work in our midst that will bring this about.

Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labour in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain (Psalm 127:1)

APPENDIX: BACKGROUND

Our current Mission Plan was developed in 2003 and has been revisited several times in the intervening years. Highlights have included:

- Initiatives in families, children's and youth ministries
- Changes in worship arrangements
- Developments in caring ministries
- Opportunities for nurturing faith and discipleship
- Fostering concern for those in need
- Initiatives in ministries to those who have retired and
- Upgrade of facilities

Reference Points: The congregation exists in a changing environment and we acknowledge the following reference points in considering our future mission plans:

- Composition of the congregation has continued to evolve with arrival of younger families and youth and with the aging and loss of long-time members.
- Roseville Uniting is a diverse community in denominational backgrounds, theological understandings, worship preferences, generational interests and cultures. We celebrate the richness of such diversity and acknowledge the challenge it poses in fostering community of the whole.
- We recognise the dynamic nature of communities in our neighbouring suburbs with growth in high density dwellings, a relatively high turnover in property occupancy and the increasing multicultural mix of the population.
- 63% of households in Roseville have children.
- Our mission planning continues to evolve from the 2003 Plan with the highlights mentioned above.

Acknowledgements: The congregation gratefully acknowledges that our achievements in mission have been enabled through the dedication and leadership of our Minister and the Ministry Staff, Church Council, Elders, Team Leaders and the significant number who serve on the Mission Teams.